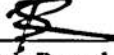




MEMORANDUM

To: Navajo Head Start Staff and Parents
Navajo Head Start Consultants

From: 
Sherrick Roanhorse, Chief of Staff
Office of the President and Vice President

Date: November 4, 2011

Subject: Navajo Head Start Update on Funding for FY 2012

This memorandum is an update for Navajo Head Start parents, staff and consultants about new information received on November 3, 2011. Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Office of the President and Vice President, and Head Start management staff have been working to address issues regarding Navajo Head Start. Below is a summary of events that the program has been experiencing:

No Reduction of Funds for Navajo Head Start for FY 2012

- A. The Navajo Nation has been negotiating with Office of Head Start attorneys from the U.S. Department of Justice.
- B. The U.S. Department of Justice and the Navajo Nation are finalizing negotiations to keep the FY 2012 funding level at \$29.3 million, (Nov. 1, 2011 – Oct. 31, 2012). There is no reduction of funds at this time.
- C. The Office of Head Start will continue to monitor and review the Navajo Head Start program to ensure service delivery and financial compliance.
- D. Navajo Nation will continue to request for technical assistance for budget matters and for correcting deficiencies/non-compliances to bring the program into full compliance.
- E. The Office of Head Start still intends to reduce Navajo Head Start funds because the entire \$29.3 million has never been fully expended and because of the chronic under-enrollment that has been occurring for the past several years.

Navajo Head Start still faces possible termination of its grant due to the results of the April 2010 Triennial Federal Review visit where 11 deficiencies and 18 non-compliances were found. Reviewers came to the Navajo Nation to conduct follow-up visits in late June 2011 and September 19-22, 2011 to complete the review and report.

Verbal communications from the federal reviewers during both visits about their findings indicated that corrections appeared to be not corrected. The Navajo Nation will be moving forward with hiring a consultant group to restructure the Navajo Head Start program to provide better services to the children and families.

Currently, all Navajo Head Start services will continue to be provided for all children and families with no interruption of services. If you should have any questions about the information provided above, please contact Dawn A. Yazzie, Executive Office Director, at (928) 871-7000.

xc: Ben Shelly, President
Rex Lee Jim, Vice President
Johnny Naize, Speaker, Navajo Nation Council
Jonathan Hale, Chairperson, Health, Education and Human Service Committee
Lorenzo Bates, Chairperson, Budget and Finance Committee
Heather L. Anderson, Legal Counsel, OPVP
Dana Bobroff, Deputy Attorney General, DOJ
Cherie Espinosa, Attorney, DOJ
Navajo Nation Washington Office
Dawn A. Yazzie, Executive Office Director, OPVP